The Report of the Excise Committee.

257. Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Excise Committee has submitted its Report on the Excise policy of the Government ; if so,

(i) whether the Government has passed orders on it ;

(ii) will the Government be pleased to place them on the table?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Report has not yet been submitted to the Government.

Reports of the Excise and Special Finance Committees.

258. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Report of the Excise Committee appointed by the Government in deference to the wishes of the Members of the Legislative Council be made available for discussion in the Legislative Council, as was done in Madras, before our Government passes orders on it ; and

(b) whether the Report of the Special Finance Committee appointed at the request of the non-official Members of the Legislative Council will also be submitted to the Legislative Council for discussion, and if the answers to question (a) and (b) are in the negative, to give the reason for not submitting them to the discussion in the Council?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) and (b). The point will be considered when the Reports in question are received by the Government.

The vacation of seats in the Special Finance and Excise Committees.

259. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—With reference to the Special Finance Committee and the Excise Advisory Committee, will the Government be pleased to state whether a member of either of these Committees will not lose his seat, if he does not attend a number of meetings consecutively, and if the answer is that the seat will be declared to be lost, from how many consecutive meetings shall he be absent to be deemed to have lost his seat?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—This is a hypothetical case in regard to which the Government consider it unnecessary to furnish an answer.

The expenditure on important works.

260. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(a) whether it has been more often the practice to sanction more than the amount first estimated for important works;

(b) the reasons for so doing in the majority of instances;

(c) the officer who is charged with the duty of preparing estimates;

(d) whether all estimates are scrutinised by the Chief Engineer before sanctioning them;

(e) if the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, the reasons for sanctioning more amount than the first estimates?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) It is not generally so.

(b) Additional provisions for foundations of structures may have to be made when, unforeseen defects in the subsoil appear during actual construction. Particularly in the case of buildings, deviations by way of providing additional accommodation, etc., have to be attended to as requisitioned by the department for which the building is constructed.

(c) In the Medical Department the Sanitary Inspectors, in the Agriculture and Panchayat Department the Minor Irrigation Overseers in consultation with the Panchayats and in the D. P. W. by the technical hands of the Drawing Branch of the Chief Engineer's Office.

(d) The estimates in respect of the D. P. W. alone are scrutinised by the Chief Engineer.

(e) Though scrutinised by the Chief Engineer, deviations due to causes explained in para (b) above cannot be avoided.

A Special Engineer in charge of the Mechanical Department.

261. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the exceptional circumstances that demanded the appointment of a Special Engineer in charge of the Mechanical Department, etc., and the abolition of the same when the present Chief Engineer was promoted to his present appointment;

(b) whether those circumstances do not exist at present;

(c) whether they propose confirming the Mechanical Assistant in that post;

(d) the details of work in the Mechanical Department done by the present Chief Engineer during the past year?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) The increase of machinery, motor cars and boats, gas and electric plants necessitated the appointment of a qualified Engineer to be in charge of them. When the Civil and Mechanical branches of the P. W. Department were amalgamated, opportunity was availed to place the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly